



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 09/381,742

Inventor: White

Examiner: Alvarez, Raquel

Attorney docket no.: GRENPO01NP

Art unit: 2761

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JUL 27 2001

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AMENDMENT

This paper responds to the Office Action dated February 14, 2001.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-64, 124-128, 130-136, 141-152, 159-162, 167.

Amend claims as follows:

129. A method for an offer matching system to publish information about a first offer comprising the following steps:

- (a) receiving from a first participant a first description of the first offer;
- (b) associating the first offer with a first identifier, the first identifier not associated with any offer other than the first offer;
- (c) if the first description did not disclose the first identifier, sending the first identifier to the first participant in a manner that discloses to the first participant that the first identifier is associated with the first offer;
- (d) receiving from a second participant a description of a second offer;